

REMARKS

These remarks are responsive to the Final Office Action, dated October 22, 2003.

Currently, claims 1-18 are pending with claims 1 and 10 being independent.

The Applicant has amended claims 1 and 10. The support for the amendments is found on page 5, line 22 to page 6, line 18 of the specification.

In the Final Office Action, dated October 22, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 8-15, and 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,949,926 to Davies (hereinafter “Davies”). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In the Final Office Action, dated October 22, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 7 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Davies with U.S. Patent No. 5,638,439 to Kawada *et al.* (hereinafter “Kawada”). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

35 U.S.C. 102(b)

In the October 22, 2003 Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Davies. The Examiner stated that Davies teaches every element of claim 1. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The amended claim 1 recites a method of compensating, in the electrical domain, for chromatic dispersion of an amplitude modulated optical double sideband signal, that includes a step of converting the amplitude modulated optical double sideband signal to an electrical signal.

Davies describes a minimum phase dispersion compensator that requires a single sideband modulation. (See, Col. 5, lines 9-50). However, Davies’ single sideband modulation compensator is not capable of converting the amplitude modulated optical double sideband

signal to an electrical signal, as recited by claim 1. Further, if Davies single sideband modulation is used, then a loss of information will occur during the dispersion compensation. Therefore, Davies' single sideband modulation techniques are inapplicable to the double sideband optical signals of claim 1. Thus, claim 1 is not anticipated by Davies and should be allowed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw his rejection of claim 1.

Amended claim 10 is not anticipated by Davies for at least the same reasons stated above with respect to claim 1. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw his rejection of claim 10.

Claims 2-6, 8-9, 11-15, and 17-18 are dependent on respective independent claims 1 and 10. As such, claims 2-6, 8-9, 11-15, and 17-18 are not anticipated by Davies for at least the same reasons stated above with respect to claim 1. This rejection is respectfully traversed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw his rejection of claims 2-6, 8-9, 11-15, and 17-18.

35 U.S.C. 103(a)

In the Final Office Action, dated October 22, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 7 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over a combination of Davies and Kawada. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

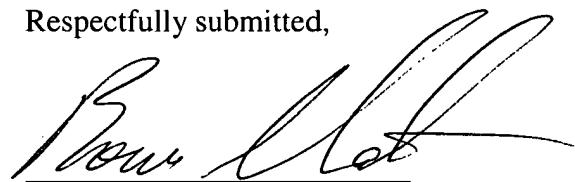
Kawada does not describe double sideband optical signals and, thus, does not cure the deficiencies of Davies with respect to claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over a combination of Davies and Kawada. Thus, claim 10 is patentable over the combination of

Davies and Kawada for at least the same reasons stated above with respect to claim 1. Claims 7 and 16 are dependent on claims 1 and 10, respectively. As such, claims 7 and 16 are patentable over a combination of Davies and Kawada for at least the same reasons stated above with respect to claim 1. Thus, this rejection is respectfully traversed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw his rejection of claims 7 and 16.

No new matter has been added.

The claims currently presented are proper and definite. Allowance is accordingly in order and respectfully requested. However, should the Examiner deem that further clarification of the record is in order, we invite a telephone call to the Applicants' undersigned attorney to expedite further processing of the application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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